ECE 530 Cloud Computing

Disadvantages of Cloud Computing

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Disadvantages of Cloud Computing

- Requires a constant Internet connection:
  - Cloud computing is impossible if you cannot connect to the Internet.
  - Since you use the Internet to connect to both your applications and documents, if you do not have an Internet connection you cannot access anything, even your own documents.
  - A dead Internet connection means no work and in areas where Internet connections are few or inherently unreliable, this could be a deal-breaker.

Disadvantages of Cloud Computing

- Does not work well with low-speed connections:
  - Similarly, a low-speed Internet connection, such as that found with dial-up services, makes cloud computing painful at best and often impossible.
  - Web-based applications require a lot of bandwidth to download, as do large documents.
- Features might be limited:
  - This situation is bound to change, but today many web-based applications simply are not as full-featured as their desktop-based applications.
    - For example, you can do a lot more with Microsoft PowerPoint than with Google Presentation's web-based offering

Disadvantages of Cloud Computing

- Can be slow:
  - Even with a fast connection, web-based applications can sometimes be slower than accessing a similar software program on your desktop PC.
  - Everything about the program, from the interface to the current document, has to be sent back and forth from your computer to the computers in the cloud.
  - If the cloud servers happen to be backed up at that moment, or if the Internet is having a slow day, you would not get the instantaneous access you might expect from desktop applications.

Disadvantages of Cloud Computing

- Stored data might not be secure:
  - With cloud computing, all your data is stored on the cloud.
    - The questions is How secure is the cloud?
  - Can unauthorised users gain access to your confidential data?
- Stored data can be lost:
  - Theoretically, data stored in the cloud is safe, replicated across multiple machines.
  - But on the off chance that your data goes missing, you have no physical or local backup.
    - Put simply, relying on the cloud puts you at risk if the cloud lets you down.

Disadvantages of Cloud Computing

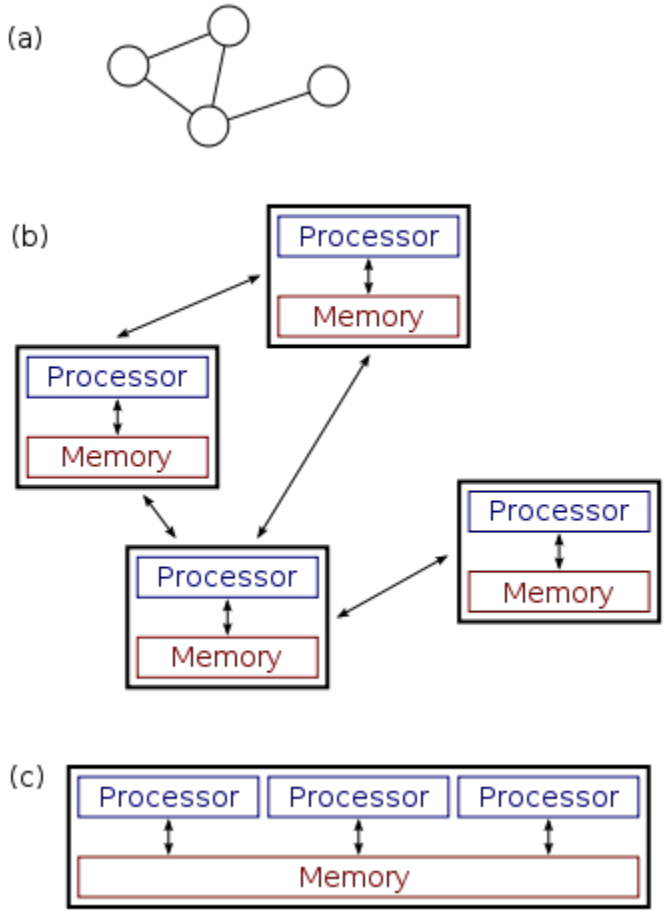
- HPC Systems:
  - Not clear that you can run compute-intensive HPC applications that use MPI/OpenMP!
  - Scheduling is important with this type of application
    - as you want all the VM to be co-located to minimize communication latency!
- General Concerns:
  - Each cloud systems uses different protocols and different APIs
    - may not be possible to run applications between cloud based systems
  - Amazon has created its own DB system (not SQL 92), and workflow system (many popular workflow systems out there)
    - so your normal applications will have to be adapted to execute on these platforms.

The Future

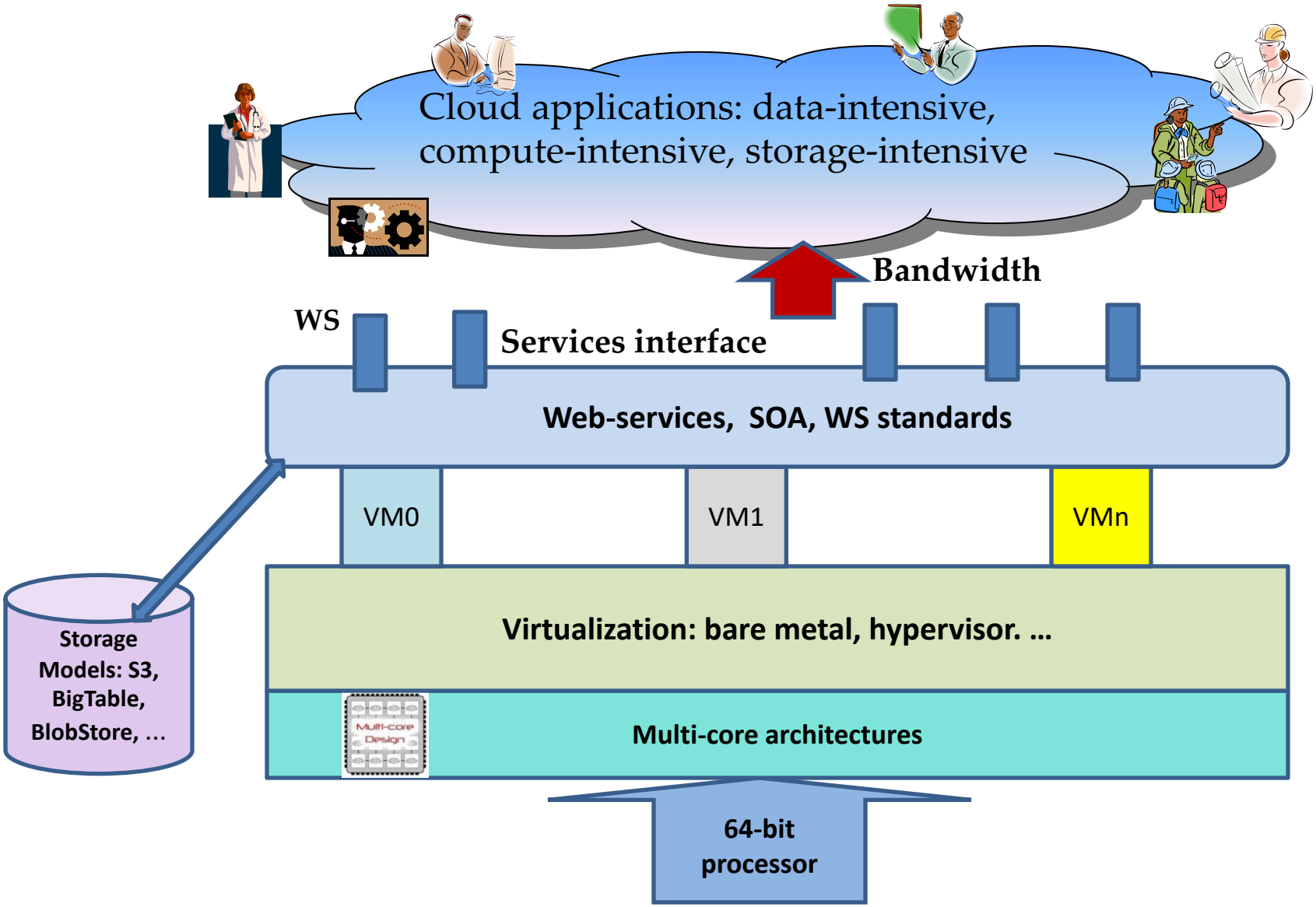
- Many of the activities loosely grouped together under cloud computing have already been happening and centralised computing activity is not a new phenomena
- Grid Computing was the last research-led centralised approach
- However there are concerns that the mainstream adoption of cloud computing could cause many problems for users
- Many new open source systems appearing that you can install and run on your local cluster
  - should be able to run a variety of applications on these systems

Distributed vs Parallel Computing

- **Parallel computing**: all processors may have access to a shared memory to exchange information between processors.
- **Distributed computing**: each processor has its own private memory (distributed memory). Information is exchanged by passing messages between the processors.



Enabling Technologies



Credits

- Material borrowed from David S Platt, Harvard University and others
- Slides contain information from “Cloud Computing: Software Engineering Fundamentals”, by J. Heinzelreiter and W. Kurschl, Upper Austria University of Applied Sciences
- Slides also contain information from B. Ramamurthy & K. Madurai, University of Buffalo
- Some slides contain diagrams from David Chappell’s white paper “Introducing Windows Azure”, http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=9682907
- Mark Baker, Notre Dame University